

Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commission

Grant Application Title Page

Title of Project/Program: Pelican "Pink" Cruelty Emergency Care

Supervisory District: 4th Supervisory District

Supervisory District Contact: Don Knabe

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Amount requested: \$2,500

Audited total income: \$1,428,374 Audited Total Expense: \$2,164,328

For fiscal year beginning 1/1/2012 and ending 12/31/2012

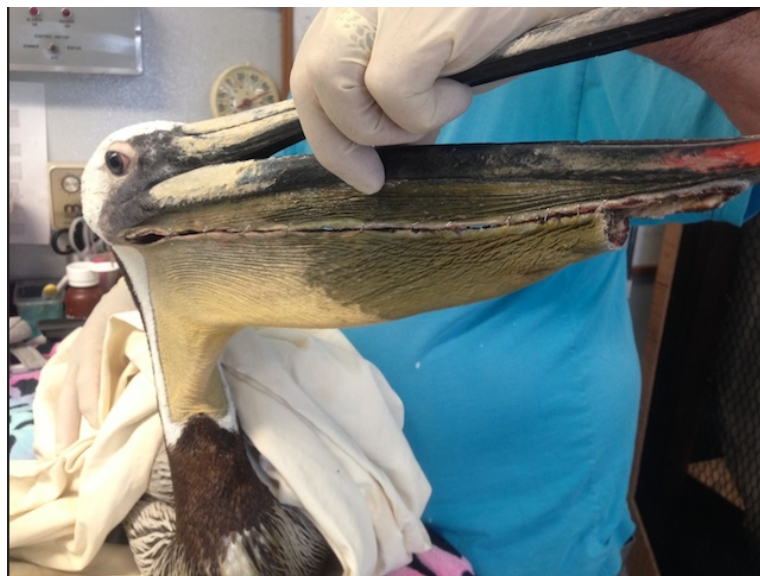
Laurie Pyne
Grants Manager

5/29/14
Date

One Page Project Summary

On April 16th, an injured California Brown Pelican was found wandering in the 5400 block of Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach. Long Beach Animal Care Services brought the bird to International Bird Rescue's (IBR) wildlife hospital in San Pedro, where she was found to have a complete side-to-side pouch laceration, the worse IBR's staff had ever seen. It was clear that the injury was deliberately inflicted with a sharp instrument of some type. Highly anemic, (from blood loss) underweight and unable to eat, medical staff began the process of stabilizing the bird in preparation for the lengthy surgeries to come to repair the laceration. Temporary staples placed in the bird's pouch enabled the pelican to begin to feed on sardines. Although IBR does not routinely name the animals in its care, this pelican was dubbed "Pink" by media personnel covering the story at IBR's San Pedro after observing the pink, plastic identifying leg band she had received upon admission.

Pink was placed in an indoor enclosure and monitored closely in preparation for what would be two surgeries totaling 6 hours to repair the extensive wound with hundreds of sutures. After her first week, the pelican was stable enough to undergo the first surgery; the second was performed several days later. Pink is recovering speedily and barring complications will likely be released back to the wild in the coming weeks after having time to flight strengthen in IBR's large pelican aviary. A \$20,000 reward has been posted thanks to concerned citizens and the Animal Legal Defense Fund for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator(s) of this crime. Anyone with information has been instructed to contact the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.



Background on Applicant:

Purpose and Goals:

International Bird Rescue is a world leader in oiled wildlife response and aquatic bird rehabilitation. Since its inception in 1971, in response to a massive oil spill following a tanker collision under the Golden Gate Bridge, IBR has been called in to lead or assist in the management of over 200 global and local oiled wildlife responses. The cornerstone of IBR's oiled wildlife response work is the daily hands-on management of injured and ill seabirds admitted to IBR's wildlife hospitals via its Aquatic Bird Rehabilitation Program. Uniquely equipped to provide expert, state-of-the-art care to the seabirds and other aquatic bird species admitted each day, The most common reason an animal is admitted for care is a human impact. IBR's ongoing rehabilitation program provides a vital community service that helps conserve and protect coastal wildlife.

Brief summary of current activities:

IBR's Aquatic Bird Rehabilitation Program operates 365 days a year, admitting and caring for injured wildlife in the surrounding Los Angeles area communities. IBR has recently received a grant from the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation to establish a community internship program that promotes wildlife and environmental science careers for local students 18 years of age and older. Additionally, IBR maintains a very active oil spill preparedness training calendar; works to grow it's own corps of local volunteers and oil spill response teams; launched it's first streaming webcam, "BirdCam" to provide a window into the world of the unique animals it receives for care each day; is in the process of developing an environmental education program featuring the species frequently admitted for care and targeted to school-aged children, particularly those in underserved areas; is maintaining and compiling data from it's "Blue-Banded Pelican Program", a citizen science project to collect post-release data on California Brown Pelicans and has extended the post-release band project to egrets (red bands) and will also include Black-crowned night herons this year. (All birds participating in the aforementioned programs receive their federal band as well as a highly visible, more easily read colored plastic band on the bird's fellow leg.)

Geographic area served:

International Bird Rescue's two wildlife hospitals are strategically located to effectively serve the Northern and Southern Coasts of California. The facility in San Pedro serves the surrounding Los Angeles communities, while the San Francisco Bay area is served by the facility located in Fairfield.

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Major Sources and dollar amounts of corporate, foundation and government support during current and past fiscal year:

2014

Procter and Gamble Company \$250,000
Chevron Products Company \$60,000
Harbor Community Benefit Foundation \$28,000
The Marisla Foundation \$10,000

2013

Procter and Gamble Company \$500,000
Chevron Products Company \$60,000
The Patricia Andrews Trust \$45,647
Tesoro Companies \$15,000
Pacific Gas and Electric \$2,500
Solano County Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund \$16,667 (restricted, Fairfield pelican aviary renovation grant)
Sonoma County fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund \$5,000 (restricted, Santa Rosa Heron/Egret Fund)
Crafts American Group \$2,669
Louis C. Mirabile Trust \$4,316
The Capital Group \$7,000
Chevron Humankind \$5,000
Alex and Ani, LLC \$1,536
The Two Herons Foundation \$8,000 (restricted, San Pedro x-ray processor)
OXY Oil Company \$1,000
Chevron El Segundo \$5,000
IBM Foundation \$2,500
Global Airport Parking \$1,509

History of all grants received from the Los Angeles County Fish and Game Commission:

2012 Aquatic Bird Rehabilitation Program \$2,500

Project Information

Statement of justification of need:

Nearly 5,000 sick or injured animals are received for care each year at International Bird Rescue's wildlife hospitals. Public and corporate donations and foundation grants are the revenue sources that enable IBR to maintain its operations and continue to provide care for birds that need it. In an oil spill situation, the party that caused the spill assumes the cost of care for the affected animals. IBR works diligently to fundraise to meet its daily operational expense needs; non-oil spill emergency situations can tax resources very quickly. While Pink was provided with intensive, life-saving care, many other birds were also being treated. IBR must be able to care for the thousands of other birds that come through its doors each year. Funding to help offset the costs of Pink's care directly benefits her and helps ensure that IBR can continue to respond to other birds in need.

Statement of purpose and goals:

The purpose of International Bird Rescue has always been to achieve its mission: to mitigate the human impact on aquatic birds and other wildlife worldwide. This is achieved through emergency response, rehabilitation, education, research and planning.

Action plan to meet objectives:

Once Pink was admitted and stabilized, a medical regimen and surgical plan was formulated and engaged to make every effort to return this bird back to the wild. Two surgeries, 5 or more pounds of fish each day, an extensive monitoring and medical regimen during recovery and then ultimately moving the bird to the outdoor pelican aviary for flight strengthening and continued rehabilitation became the plan for Pink's recovery. This pelican has had an excellent response to treatment and care and a full recovery and release is anticipated.

Statement of how the objectives advance the propagation and protection of fish and wildlife:

Many patients are admitted to IBR's wildlife hospital from unspecified causes or from events that occur in nature beyond humanity's control. In the case of this pelican, a deliberate and intentional act of cruelty was inflicted on a bird that only knows "how" to be a pelican. We hope that Pink's story encourages greater awareness, respect and compassion towards the wildlife in our communities. IBR also uses these incidents to remind and educate the public that there are expert resources available to help with issues involving wildlife. With millions of humans sharing spaces and encroaching on more territory in common with animals, we know that human-wildlife conflicts are likely to increase. IBR endeavors to use the stories of its admitted patients to help inform the public about what we can all do to help conserve and protect our wild natural resources.

Project Budget and Timetable: See attached document for itemized budget

This pelican is anticipated to be in care for a total of 6-8 weeks, depending on the rapidity of recovery.

Sources of other support for the project:

IBR submitted an emergency funding grant to the Ian Somerhalder Foundation and was recently notified we would receive a \$1,000 award for the Pink's care.

Additionally, solicitations to the general public have been made and citizens have sent donations to help cover the costs of Pink's care.

Current status of project:

Pink is progressing nicely and recovering quickly from her surgeries. Staff anticipates a release by the end of the first week in June, potentially, barring any complications that could delay the process.

Cash flow analysis of the expenditure of project funds:

All funding received will be applied toward Pink's care; in the event funding received is greater than budgeted, it will be applied to care for other pelicans in need.

Proposed method of evaluating results:

A full recovery and release back to the wild will be the capstone to the complex treatment and rehabilitative care rendered to repair this bird's massive wound. Prior to release, Pink will receive a federal band as well as a special, highly visible blue band. Since 2009, IBR has been placing these bands prior to release on all California Brown Pelicans. The blue band, placed on the leg opposite the federal band, has large white numbers easily seen with binoculars and often visible with the naked eye. The bands help track the post release migration, survivability and other data on released California brown pelicans.

